

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for facilitating online payment transactions between participants in a network-based transaction facility, the method comprising:
- communicating user interface information to a first participant via a communications network, the user interface information identifying a plurality of payment instruments available for processing online payment transactions in the network-based transaction facility;
 - receiving payment option information from the first participant via the communications network, the payment option information indicating a willingness of the first participant to accept payments from a second participant via at least one of the plurality of payment instruments;
 - passing the payment option information to the second participant via the communications network; and
 - accepting personal billing information concerning a payment instrument selected by the second participant from the at least one of the plurality of payment instruments, the personal billing information being accepted via the communications network to facilitate an online payment transaction between the first participant and the second participant.

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1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 dynamically evaluating risk involved in the online payment
3 transaction between the first participant and the second participant; and
4 restricting the online payment transaction based on the evaluated
5 risk.

1 3. The method of claim 2 wherein the involved risk is evaluated using
2 various information concerning the first participant and the second
3 participant, the various information including information stored by an
4 online payment service and information obtained from any one of a plurality
5 of third party risk analysis providers via the communications network.

1 4. The method of claim 2 wherein the involved risk is evaluated at
2 various stages of the online payment transaction between the first
3 participant and the second participant.

1 5. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

2 accepting multiple payments issued to the first participant in a course
3 of business transactions conducted by the first participant;

4 accumulating the multiple payments over a period of time as a single
5 accumulated payment; and

6 disbursing the single accumulated payment to the first participant.

1 6. The method of claim 5 wherein the multiple payments are accepted
2 over the communications network using the plurality of payment
3 instruments.

1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the network-based transaction facility
2 comprises a network-based auction facility.

1 8. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 communicating the personal billing information of the second
3 participant to a financial institution to process the online payment
4 transaction, the personal billing information being communicated over the
5 communications network; and

6 notifying the first participant when the online payment transaction
7 completes.

1 9. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 enabling the first participant to initiate the online payment
3 transaction via communications network;
4 communicating to the first participant an invoice form interface to
5 obtain invoice information from the first participant;
6 determining that the first participant is qualified to initiate the online
7 payment transaction described by terms included in the invoice information;
8 and
9 passing the invoice information to the second participant.

1 10. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 enabling the second participant to initiate the online payment
3 transaction via communications network;
4 communicating to the first participant information indicating a
5 willingness of the second participant to use one of the plurality of payment
6 instruments;

7 determining that the second participant is qualified to use the one of
8 the plurality of payment instruments; and
9 providing a billing information interface to the second participant to
10 obtain personal billing information concerning the one of the plurality of
11 payment instruments.

1 11. The method of claim 1 wherein the personal billing information is
2 encrypted.

1 12. The method of claim 1 wherein the personal billing information of the
2 second participant is not disclosed to the first participant unless permitted
3 by the second participant.

1 13. A system for facilitating online payment transactions between
2 participants in a network-based transaction facility, the system comprising:
3 the network-based transaction facility to implement a transaction
4 system that facilitates business transactions between a user and a further
5 user;
6 a client, coupled to the network-based transaction facility, to present

7 user interface information identifying a plurality of payment instruments
8 available for processing online payment transactions pertaining to
9 corresponding business transactions and to communicate payment option
10 information of the user over a communications network, the payment option
11 information indicating a willingness of the user to accept a payment from
12 the further user via at least one of the plurality of payment instruments; and
13 an online payment service, coupled to the network-based transaction
14 facility and the client via the communications network, to receive the
15 payment option information from the client, to make the payment option
16 information available to the further user via the communications network, to
17 enable the further user to select a preferred payment instrument from the at
18 least one of the payment instruments, and to accept personal billing
19 information concerning the preferred payment instrument from the further
20 user via the communications network.

14. The system of claim 13 wherein the online payment service
comprises:

3 a risk management system to dynamically evaluate risk involved in
4 the online payment transaction between the first participant and the second
5 participant; and

6 a payment processing system to restrict the online payment
7 transaction based on the evaluated risk.

1 15. The system of claim 14 wherein the involved risk is evaluated using
2 various information concerning the first participant and the second
3 participant, the various information including information stored by an
4 online payment service and information obtained from any one of a plurality
5 of third party risk analysis providers via the communications network.

1 16. The system of claim 14 wherein the involved risk is evaluated at
2 various stages of the online payment transaction between the first
3 participant and the second participant.

1 17. The system of claim 13 wherein the online payment service is further
2 configured to

3 accept multiple payments issued to the first participant in a
4 course of business transactions conducted by the first participant,
5 accumulate the multiple payments over a period of time as a
6 single accumulated payment, and
7 disburse the single accumulated payment to the first
8 participant.

1 18. The system of claim 17 wherein the multiple payments are accepted
2 over the communications network using the plurality of payment
3 instruments.

1 19. The system of claim 13 wherein the network-based transaction facility
2 comprises a network-based auction facility.

1 20. The system of claim 13 wherein the online payment service is
2 configured to
3 communicate the personal billing information of the second
4 participant to a financial institution to process the online payment

5 transaction, the personal billing information being communicated
6 over the communications network, and
7 notify the first participant when the online payment
8 transaction completes.

1 21. The system of claim 13 wherein the online payment service is
2 configured to

3 enable the first participant to initiate the online payment
4 transaction via communications network,
5 communicate to the first participant an invoice form interface
6 to obtain invoice information from the first participant,
7 determine that the first participant is qualified to initiate the
8 online payment transaction described by terms included in the
9 invoice information, and
10 pass the invoice information to the second participant.

1 22. The system of claim 13 wherein the online payment service is
2 configured to

3 enable the second participant to initiate the online payment
4 transaction via communications network,
5 communicate to the first participant information indicating a
6 willingness of the second participant to use one of the plurality of
7 payment instruments,
8 determine that the second participant is qualified to use the
9 one of the plurality of payment instruments, and
10 provide a billing information interface to the second
11 participant to obtain personal billing information concerning the one
12 of the plurality of payment instruments.

1 23. The system of claim 13 wherein the personal billing information is
2 encrypted.

1 24. The system of claim 13 wherein the personal billing information of
2 the second participant is not disclosed to the first participant unless
3 permitted by the second participant.

25. A computer readable medium comprising instructions, which when

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executed on a processor, cause the processor to perform a method for

3 facilitating online payment transactions between participants in a network-

4 based transaction facility, the method comprising:

5 communicating user interface information to a first participant via a

6 communications network, the user interface information identifying a

7 plurality of payment instruments available for processing online payment

8 transactions in the network-based transaction facility;

9 receiving payment option information from the first participant via

10 the communications network, the payment option information indicating a

11 willingness of the first participant to accept payments from a second

12 participant via at least one of the plurality of payment instruments;

13 passing the payment option information to the second participant via

14 the communications network; and

15 accepting personal billing information concerning a payment

16 instrument selected by the second participant from the at least one of the

17 plurality of payment instruments, the personal billing information being

18 accepted via the communications network to facilitate an online payment

19 transaction between the first participant and the second participant.